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Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic

Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 65/121 entitled "Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic". In that resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to keep the implementation of resolution 41/11 and subsequent resolutions on the matter under review. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session taking into account, inter alia, the views of Member States, including on the efforts to implement the Luanda Final Declaration and Plan of Action (A/61/1019, annex II and annex I) adopted at a ministerial meeting in June 2007. The Assembly further requested the relevant organizations, organs and bodies of the United Nations system, and invited relevant partners, including international financial institutions, to render all appropriate assistance that States members of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic[1] might seek in their joint efforts to implement the Luanda Plan of Action.

2. Pursuant to resolution 65/121, the Secretariat addressed a note verbale, dated 23 January 2013, to the Governments of the States members of the United Nations, requesting their views. Letters were also dispatched on 23 January 2013 to the relevant United Nations entities requesting them to submit by 7 February 2013 their contributions for the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General. As at 21 February 2013, four Governments had replied and five contributions had been received from United Nations entities. Those replies are summarized in sections II and III of the present report.

3. In this connection, I take note of the seventh Ministerial Meeting of States members of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic, which took place on 15 and 16 January 2013 in Montevideo, and note also the resulting declaration and plan of action of the meeting (see A/67/746, annexes I and II).

II. Replies received from Governments

Angola

4. Angola held the presidency of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic from 2007 to 2012. During that period, the forum for dialogue and cooperation, comprised of sovereign nations along the South Atlantic, strived to realize the objectives of the zone by implementing the Luanda Plan of Action and the Luanda Final Declaration and through political, diplomatic and practical activities in the field of the environment, seabed protection, economic cooperation, disarmament and peaceful resolution of conflicts.

5. Among the highest priority issues for the zone during the Angolan presidency were: poverty eradication (through partnerships for sustainable development and promotion of trade, investment and tourism); crime prevention and countering illicit

[1] The zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic includes 24 States members: Angola, Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Cameroon, Cape Verde, the Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Namibia, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Togo and Uruguay.

trade in small arms and light weapons and transnational organized crime, including piracy and drug trafficking; and peace, stability and security, including conflict prevention and peacebuilding in the zone.

6. The first seminar of the focal points of the zone was held in Luanda on 15 and 16 April 2008, where experts from the States members of the zone discussed means to improve the performance of the zone. Another seminar took place on 6 and 7 December 2011 in Brasilia, with support from the Government of Brazil. The meeting in Brasilia offered an opportunity for States members of the zone to share their knowledge and expertise, namely in geology and mineral resources of the equator and the South Atlantic, geographic information systems, marine science and development research platforms, delimitation of the continental shelf, access to mineral resources of the continental shelf, and exploration of mineral resources.

7. Angola is indebted to all States members of the zone who extended cooperation to its presidency and provided support to the work of the zone.

Argentina

8. Argentina attaches great importance to the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic and actively participates in its activities. It notes with appreciation the seventh ministerial meeting, hosted by the Government of Uruguay, at which substantive and concrete proposals to relaunch and reinvigorate the zone were adopted and agreements on a range of global issues were reached. The success of the meeting in Montevideo is testament to the common desire of the States members of the zone to strengthen the global South. In Argentina's view, the fact that the zone comprises neither any nuclear powers nor permanent members of the Security Council also speaks to the quality of the partnership, as being a partnership among equals, whose possibilities for cooperation are vast and must be exploited.

9. The meeting in Montevideo addressed problems that continue to be extremely sensitive to the States members of the zone, including an end to colonialism, situations that adversely affect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of some States members of the zone and the resolution of disputes by peaceful means. Moreover, the meeting focused on sustainable development, climate change and ocean and maritime affairs. The zone also identified the need for preventive action to deter the use of South Atlantic routes for drug trafficking, piracy and/or terrorism, on the basis of the national legal frameworks and capabilities of the States members of the zone.

10. The importance of maintaining the zone free of nuclear weapons is a shared ideal and value enshrined in the United Nations, as well as the regional and subregional organizations. Thus, Argentina considers it appropriate that countries outside the zone must equally behave responsibly, observe the universal values and the imperative for peace and security, and adhere to the ban on weapons of mass destruction to which the States members of the zone subscribe.

11. The Montevideo Plan of Action seeks to translate the political will of States members of the zone into concrete cooperation measures, where a potential for South-South cooperation was identified. Argentina considers it essential to work on specific projects for cooperation among the countries of the zone and identified a number of concrete proposals and offers for the States members of the zone (see the

annex to the present report) to address the needs identified in Montevideo. These include, among others areas for cooperation: biotechnology and nanotechnology; climate change and environmental control; health and agriculture sectors; institutional and industrial capacity-building; South-South cooperation; and cooperation on gender issues.

Brazil

12. As one of the main founders of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic, Brazil reaffirms its commitment to the zone, which has been recognized by the international community as a valuable mechanism for concerted efforts in pursuit of the common goals of peace and sustainable development in the region. The consolidation of the South Atlantic as a space for dialogue, cooperation and peace, free from nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, remains a strategic goal shared by States members of the zone.

13. The seventh ministerial meeting of the zone, held in Montevideo in January 2013, made a step forward towards the revitalization of the zone. States members renewed their commitment to the objectives of the zone, which took on greater significance in the context of the changing international system and the growing recognition of the role that developing countries can play in global affairs. The Montevideo Declaration and Plan of Action have set out modalities for cooperation, including on disarmament, peace and security, defence, economic and trade issues, sustainable development, marine resources and combating transnational organized crime.

14. Brazil takes pride in the fact that several States members of the zone have experienced growth amidst the global economic and financial crisis and achieved results in overcoming poverty. The zone holds high potential for the socioeconomic development of coastal countries through concrete technical cooperation and steps to strengthen national institutions.

15. In an effort to help revitalize the zone and to support the implementation of the Montevideo Plan of Action, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency has developed technical assistance and training programmes to promote the exchange of experiences and good practices among State members of the zone in areas of mutual interest. In the follow-up activities to the seventh ministerial meeting, Brazil intends to host a seminar in August 2013 to discuss the issues included in the Montevideo Declaration and Plan of Action, as well as another event in the second half of 2013 to address other areas included in the Plan of Action, in particular: (a) mapping and delimitation of the continental shelf and the seabed and (b) security and surveillance of maritime traffic, (c) search and rescue operations at sea, and (d) peacekeeping operations.

16. The insertion of the zone into the United Nations framework highlights the universal principles and values that guide cooperation and dialogue in the South Atlantic. The zone needs the continuing support of the United Nations system. It is therefore important that the Secretariat renders all appropriate assistance that States members of the zone might seek in their joint efforts to implement the Montevideo Plan of Action, especially those aimed at strengthening the zone, such as the convening of a ministerial meeting on a biennial basis, an annual meeting on the sidelines of the General Assembly, and the establishment of a follow-up mechanism.

17. In addition, the two working groups established in Montevideo, on trade and investment and United Nations peacekeeping operations, respectively, could benefit from support from the relevant United Nations entities. To help improve communication among zone members and other interested parties, a webpage could be created within the website of the United Nations that could facilitate regular information exchange and updates, including on cooperation initiatives between States members.

18. Brazil is ready to contribute and to continue working actively with the countries of the zone and with States members of the United Nations at large for the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/11. In this regard, it welcomes the decision of Cape Verde to host the eighth ministerial meeting of the zone, in 2015, and stands ready to support the preparatory process for the meeting.

Uruguay

19. Uruguay wishes to highlight the seventh ministerial meeting of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic, which took place in Montevideo on 15 and 16 January 2013. Uruguay is confident that the meeting in Montevideo constitutes an important milestone towards the realization of the objectives of the zone and contributes to its revitalization, which was initiated in Luanda in 2007.

20. The ministerial meeting adopted two substantive and comprehensive documents, namely a Declaration and a Plan of Action, as well as two specific declarations: on the situations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in Guinea-Bissau. The meeting had a strong focus on promoting concrete results to enhance cooperation among the States members of the zone. With this purpose in mind, the Ministers agreed concrete actions on specific areas, such as the mapping and exploration of the seabed, the environment, air and maritime transportation and port security, maritime safety and security, defence, public security and combating transnational organized crime, peacekeeping, trade facilitation and other issues. It should be noted that the delegations of Brazil and Argentina presented their respective proposals for cooperation in some of these areas at the meeting.

21. In addition, the participants of the meeting agreed to enhance the follow-up mechanisms of the decisions adopted by the States members of the zone. Most notably, building on the meeting held on 28 September 2012 in New York, an annual meeting of the zone will be convened on the margins of the General Assembly. Uruguay looks forward to working with the Secretariat towards the implementation of the objectives of the zone.

III. Replies received from organizations and bodies of the United Nations system

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

22. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has engaged with States members of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic in the framework of the Luanda Plan of Action and South-South cooperation, notably on poverty eradication, agriculture and livestock production,

and the promotion of scientific research and environmental and marine issues. In partnership with Brazil and the World Food Programme (WFP), FAO provides support on agricultural development and food access interventions in five countries (Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger and Senegal). Moreover, over $4.5 million has been transferred by Brazil through FAO and WFP as voluntary contributions for humanitarian emergency and recovery assistance.

23. In 2011, FAO launched a major new initiative involving sustainable crop production, which is built on nature's contribution to crop growth. In West Africa, the FAO Integrated Production and Protection Management programme worked with approximately 150,000 farmers in seven countries (including Benin and Senegal) and helped increase food security through improved and environmentally sustainable farming practices. FAO supports small enterprises, including for sustainable rice production in five countries, including Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal. FAO is also implementing a programme on pest and pesticides management for crop loss reduction in Sahel and Western Africa, which focuses on the regional integration and enforcement of institutional and pesticides regulatory frameworks. The programme has expanded from 9 to 13 countries, while the regional integrated system will cover 17 countries (the majority of which are States members of the zone).

24. In 2010 and 2011, FAO supported the Governments of Sierra Leone and the Republic of the Congo in the development of a sustainable bioenergy policy. A three-year project on bioenergy "Probiomassa" was launched on 5 September 2012 in Argentina. In 2011, FAO published a report on state of the art bioenergy in Brazil. FAO has been promoting the use of the software "Biosoft", developed by Viçosa University, in Latin America.

25. The Tropical Agriculture Platform was launched at the first meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists of the Group of 20 in September 2012 in Mexico. The Platform will broker partnerships between existing initiatives in support of agricultural innovation, including cooperation between countries of the global South. The first meeting of partners, held in Punta Del Este, Uruguay in October 2012, developed an operational framework and a workplan, and an inception workshop is planned in the middle of 2013.

26. FAO is working on a number of activities in the area of animal health, the overall encompassing objective of which is prevention. Given the global nature of animal health issues, the specificities of such activities are not unique to the zone but are applicable to its membership.

27. On 8 February 2013, FAO facilitated an agreement on Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and enable long-term conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources and marine ecosystems. FAO supports South Atlantic Latin American countries in the conservation of coastal marine biodiversity through a network of protected areas, including a fisheries management project implemented in partnership with the Government of Uruguay. In 2011, the network's coastal marine group prepared a situation analysis of the area under protection and fostered the exchange of experiences among countries concerned in order to help improve management of protected areas.

International Maritime Organization

28. The Luanda Plan of Action highlights the need for capacity-building in customs and law enforcement agencies in the pursuit of crime prevention and the combating of illicit activities, including illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing as well as piracy and armed robbery against ships. The substantive security measures of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) focus on maintaining the security of the ship at all times.

29. Maritime security and the facilitation of international maritime traffic are integral parts of IMO responsibilities. A comprehensive security regime for international shipping entered into force on 1 July 2004. The mandatory security measures, adopted in December 2002, included a number of amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, the most far-reaching of which enshrined the International Code for the Security of Ships and Port Facilities, which contains detailed security-related requirements for Contracting Governments of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, port authorities and shipping companies in a mandatory section (Part A), together with a series of guidelines about how to meet these requirements in a second, non-mandatory section (Part B). Chapter XI-2 of the International Convention and the International Code are applicable in 162 States, addressing 99 per cent of global shipping.

30. The maritime security provisions of chapter XI-2 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea and the International Code are part of a wider initiative for maritime law enforcement, border control and counter-terrorism, including action by the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council through resolution 1373 (2001); coordination with other United Nations entities and INTERPOL through the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force; cooperation with the World Customs Organization on container security; and joint initiatives with the International Labour Organization on port security and identification documents.

31. The Maritime Safety Committee of IMO and its subsidiary bodies are continuously working on additional elements of and guidance for the mandatory requirements, for example, ship security alert systems, long-range identification and tracking of ships, control and compliance measures, training and certification of security officers.

32. Among the unlawful acts covered by the 1988 Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation are the seizure of ships by force; acts of violence against persons on board ships; and the placing of devices on board a ship which are likely to destroy or damage it.[2]

33. The 2005 Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation added new articles which significantly expand the list of offences and includes those involving use of a ship for transport of a weapon of mass destruction and certain dual-use materials, and those committed with what is generally understood to be a terrorist motive. Under the new instrument, a person commits an offence within the meaning of the Convention, if that person unlawfully and intentionally transports another person on board a ship knowing that

[2] The Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf (1988) contains corresponding provisions in relation to such platforms.

the person has committed an act that constitutes an offence under the Convention or in any of the nine international treaties listed in the annex to the Convention.

34. In addition to the development of legal instruments and associated training and guidance material, IMO has focused on assisting Governments, including countries in the South Atlantic region, in implementing the provisions of chapter XI-2 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea and the International Code through its technical cooperation programme. Such activities have included conducting training courses, needs assessment missions, seminars and workshops on a regional and national basis.

35. IMO and the Maritime Organization of West and Central Africa developed a memorandum of understanding in July 2009 to establish a subregional integrated coast guard function network in West and Central Africa. The memorandum has been signed by 15 of the 20 coastal States in the region.

36. The Security Council, in its resolution 2039 (2012) welcomes the initiatives already taken by States in the region and the regional organizations (including the Maritime Organization of West and Central Africa) and, in paragraph 7 of the resolution, encourages the States of the Gulf of Guinea, ECOWAS, the Economic Community of Central African States and the Gulf of Guinea Commission to develop and implement transnational and transregional maritime security coordination centres covering the whole region of the Gulf of Guinea, including building on initiatives under the auspices of IMO. In this regard, IMO has engaged the Governments of Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Mauritania and Sao Tome and Principe.

37. IMO is working with international development partners on a number of activities aimed at enhancing the ability of individual States (phase I) in the region, and the wider subregion (phase II) to build a sustainable maritime capacity. In line with the Luanda Plan of Action, IMO promotes a multi-agency, whole-of-government approach to maritime security and maritime law enforcement issues in States throughout the region.

38. The free access to global markets through cost-efficient transport of goods is a fundamental requirement to ensuring economic prosperity across the globe. Developing nations in particular stand to potentially gain from improved infrastructure and closer connections to attractive markets reachable by sea. The Luanda Plan of Action calls for Governments to "further develop transportation and communication within the zone in order to facilitate greater contact, promote trade and enhance tourism among the Member States of the zone". In this connection, IMO helps build legal and technical capacity for improved maritime transport opportunities in regions that have yet to fulfil their economic potential in international markets. With the framework of the World Customs Organization, IMO further promotes resilience and security enhancements of the global supply chain. Furthermore, pursuant to the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic (1965), as amended and the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, IMO has issued: resolution 228 (82) of the Maritime Safety Committee and resolution 9(34) of the Facilitation Committee on revised guidelines for the prevention and suppression of the smuggling of drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals on ships engaged in international maritime traffic; and resolution 312 (88) of the Maritime Safety Committee and resolution 11(37) of the Facilitation Committee on revised guidelines on the prevention of access by

stowaways and the allocation of responsibilities to seek the successful resolution of stowaway cases.

Office for Disarmament Affairs

39. The Office for Disarmament Affairs has cooperated with members of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic in the promotion of its objectives. Since 2008, a large number of States members of the zone have signed, acceded to or ratified multilateral disarmament treaties and conventions: four States members of the zone (Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau and Namibia) have ratified the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty; three States members of the zone (Ghana, Guinea and Liberia) have ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty; Guinea-Bissau has become a State party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction; and on 18 January 2013, Cameroon acceded to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction.

40. In the area of weapons of mass destruction, the Office for Disarmament Affairs provides support to key activities of the Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and its experts.[3] The efforts of the Office in this area are currently focused on enhancing cooperation between international, regional and subregional organizations and supporting regional approaches, as well as promoting engagement with civil society. Of the 24 States members of the zone, 17 have submitted their first report to the Committee. In 2012, the Government of South Africa hosted a workshop for African States on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in collaboration with the African Union and with the facilitation of the Institute for Security Studies. The Office provided support for this workshop, which was attended by 13 States members of the zone.

41. The Office has also supported the efforts of States members of the zone in the field of conventional weapons, particularly promoting multilateral instruments to control small arms and light weapons. It has assisted Member States with the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, including through its open-ended meeting of governmental experts in 2011. All States members of the zone participated in this process.

42. During the reporting period, the Office has also assisted Member States, including States members of the zone, with policy formulation and evaluation, notably by organizing a number of seminars for State officials, with the participation of members of non-governmental organizations, on the implementation of the Programme of Action and the negotiation of the Arms Trade Treaty.

[3] On 28 April 2004, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1540 (2004) under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, in which it affirms that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery constitutes a threat to international peace and security. The resolution obliges States, inter alia, to refrain from supporting by any means non-State actors in developing, acquiring, manufacturing, possessing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their delivery systems.

43. Moreover, the Office has supported a range of regional and subregional efforts, including the regional and subregional confidence-building measures to ease tensions and conflicts in Central Africa through the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa and the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture (Kinshasa Convention). As of 22 September 2011, the Convention had been signed by six members of the zone.

44. Six members of the zone (Benin, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo) have ratified the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition, and Other Related Materials.

45. Members of the zone have also made progress in promoting international humanitarian law. Guinea-Bissau has become a State party to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminative Effects and its Protocols. With regard to cluster munitions, seven members of the zone have become States parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions and 10 more members of the zone have signed it.

46. There have been some efforts in promoting transparency in armaments in the zone. From 2008 to 2012, seven members of the zone reported their transfers of conventional arms to the Register of Conventional Arms, while four members of the zone have reported their military expenditures to the Secretary-General.

47. During the reporting period, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, upon the request of the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, provided substantive and technical assistance in the drafting of the Kinshasa Convention. The Centre provided support to West African States in updating and harmonizing their national legislation on the control of small arms and light weapons.

48. Likewise, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean provided States members of the zone with capacity-building, technical assistance and outreach and advocacy activities to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and armed violence, as well as to promote measures against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In order to promote more effective stockpile management, the Centre's experts collaborated with State officials to review and implement standard operational protocols in specific stockpile facilities in Argentina in 2012. From 9 to 11 November 2010, the Centre organized a regional workshop on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in Lima, in which two members of the zone (Argentina and Brazil) participated.

Office of Legal Affairs

49. The General Assembly acknowledged the relevant cooperation among the States members of the zone in its resolution 67/78 on oceans and the law of the sea. The Assembly has established a number of processes for an in-depth consideration of certain aspects of the law of the sea which are of direct relevance for the zone.

They include the Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea; the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects as well as the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction.

50. The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs provides assistance to Member States by undertaking a variety of capacity-building activities in the field of oceans and the law of the sea and by providing information and advice on the uniform and consistent application of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Through its capacity-building activities, the Division has assisted a number of States members of the zone to further the goals set forth in the Luanda Final Declaration and Plan of Action. Since 2008, this assistance has included:

(a) Awarding of fellowships in the context of the United Nations-Nippon Foundation of Japan Fellowship Programme, administered by the Division, with a view to providing opportunities for advanced education and training in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea and related disciplines. including marine science, to Government officials and other mid-level professionals from developing States;[4]

(b) Provision of financial assistance to facilitate the preparation of submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf;[5]

(c) Provision of financial assistance to attend meetings or sessions of several bodies serviced by the Division, including those of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf[6] and the Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea;[7]

(d) Financial assistance for travel-related expenses associated with participation in global or regional meetings on fisheries matters, capacity-building activities and human resource development in the fishing sector, as well as for costs related to settlement of dispute proceedings between States parties concerning the interpretation or application of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.[8]

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[4] Fellows have included individuals from Benin, Brazil, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Namibia, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe and Sierra Leone.

[5] Financial assistance was provided to Angola, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Namibia, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and Uruguay.

[6] Financial assistance was provided to facilitate the participation of members of the Commission nominated by Cameroon, Ghana and Nigeria.

[7] Financial assistance was provided to facilitate the participation of delegates or panellists from Brazil, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo.

[8] Guinea, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Uruguay have received financial assistance from the Trust Fund administered by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Division between 2009 and 2011. At the time of submission of the present report, information concerning financial assistance disbursed in 2012 was not yet available.

51. In addition, the Division provides information on various issues of mutual interest for States members of the zone, as outlined in the Luanda Final Declaration and Plan of Action, by virtue of its role as secretariat of the Convention. In this connection, training activities on various aspects of the Convention were conducted in South Africa in 2007, in Namibia in 2008, and in Argentina and Angola in 2011. The Division also participated in the second regional meeting of the Steering Committee of the West Africa Regional Fisheries Program, held in Praia, in 2012.

52. Since its entry into force in 1994, the Convention has been a key tool for the promotion of peaceful uses of the seas and oceans and the strengthening of peace, security, cooperation and friendly relations among all nations, as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations. Of particular relevance, the Convention sets out the rights and duties of States in relation to maritime security, and also in respect of certain threats to the maintenance of peace and maritime security, such as piracy, illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, intentional and unlawful damage to the marine environment and illegal fishing. For example, the concepts of innocent passage (article 19), the reservation of the high seas and of the international seabed area for peaceful purposes (articles 88, 138 and 141), and the regime of marine scientific research (article 240) are noteworthy.

53. Equally notable is the comprehensive mechanism for the peaceful settlement of disputes contained in Part XV of the Convention, which requires States to settle any disputes between them concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention by peaceful means. If parties to a dispute cannot resolve their dispute through bilateral means, the Convention provides for one of four procedures entailing a binding decision. Over the years, numerous disputes have been settled by recourse to these mechanisms, and many others have been deterred by the existence of such mechanisms.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

54. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has assisted and supported national, regional and international efforts to combat transnational organized crime and corruption by providing assistance in the framework of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, its three Protocols and the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The Office has also continued to provide States members of the zone with technical assistance in the fight against transnational organized crime, trafficking in human beings and corruption, as well as in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice.

55. At present, three States members of the zone have signed and 21 States members have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; two members have signed and 21 members have become parties to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; four members have signed and 17 members have become parties to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; and 13 members have become parties to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts

and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

56. In 2012, the Office carried out legislative assessments and provided subsequent legislative drafting assistance on trafficking in persons in Benin, Guinea and Togo. This resulted in comprehensive draft legislation against human trafficking, which is being handed over to the authorities of the three countries. The Office initiated a legislative assessment on the issue in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

57. In 2011, the Office began its global project on countering transnational illicit arms trafficking through the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Firearms Protocol. The project activities take place in 15 countries, including eight countries of the zone. In the framework of the project, the Office undertook legislative baseline assessments and convened regional workshops on legislative harmonization in Argentina (June 2012) and Senegal (July 2012).

58. Currently, out of 24 States members of the zone, 22 States have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and one State member is a signatory. Thirteen States members have been or are presently being reviewed under the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention.

59. At the request of and in cooperation with the Ghana Immigration Service, the Office delivered a train-the-trainers programme to law enforcement officers. To support the training, the Ghana Immigration Service adapted the basic and in-depth training manuals on investigating and prosecuting the smuggling of migrants to the local context and has facilitated a stakeholders' conference aimed at supporting a multidisciplinary approach to the implementation in practice of the new anti-migra. smuggling law in Ghana.

60. Similarly, the Office and the Government of Brazil have cooperated in the implementation of a comprehensive project against human trafficking in that country. The focus of the project is on training of relevant officials, research and awareness-raising. Moreover, the Office provided capacity-building support to the national agency for the prohibition of trafficking in persons and other related matters in Nigeria and, under the umbrella of the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking supported the exchange of experiences and good practice between Nigerian and European officials. Under the umbrella of the Global Initiative, the Office participated in a project aimed at building the capacity of civil society organizations in the areas of protection and assistance to victims of trafficking, and at strengthening their networks through the promotion of cooperation among State and non-State actors in Senegal.

61. Through the Global Container Control Programme, the Office and the World Customs Organization continue to help build the capacity of law enforcement agencies to identify and inspect high-risk shipping containers, which can be used for illicit purposes such as trafficking of drugs, weapons, explosives and environmental goods. Through the Programme, the Office promotes cooperation among law enforcement agencies, including on profiling and intelligence. The Programme currently operates in seaports in five countries of the zone, namely, Benin, Cape Verde, Ghana, Senegal and Togo. Significant amounts of heroin, cocaine, weapons and counterfeit products have been seized, proving the value of bringing together the various front-line enforcement agencies.

62. The Global Programme Against Money Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism has posted expert mentors with the United Nations Office for West Africa and with the secretariat of the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network of Southern Africa to provide assistance on countering money-laundering, the forfeiture of criminal assets and the counter-financing of terrorism. Mentoring on such topics is provided to a number of States members of the zone. Specific training events related to anti-money-laundering and counter-financing of terrorism have been conducted in Cameroon, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Togo. Since 2009, the Global Programme Against Money Laundering has worked to actively support the development of the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network, whose members include Namibia, Nigeria and South Africa. The Global Programme Against Money Laundering also assists the South American Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering to support its Assets Recovery Network in Latin America. The Global Programme Against Money Laundering is working to create a similar professional network for West Africa.

63. Under the framework of its Regional Programme for West Africa (2010-2014), the Office has been supporting national efforts to address evolving security threats through a number of initiatives in line with the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan to address illicit trafficking and organized crime. It includes initiatives across the Atlantic, promoting policy dialogue and interregional cooperation between Latin America, West Africa and Europe, and contributing to South-South cooperation. In this context, the partnership of the Office with Brazil has been strengthened in recent years through joint initiatives supporting capacity-building programmes in lusophone countries of West Africa, such as Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde. In Guinea-Bissau, the Office has supported the formulation and implementation of a national strategy to address the threat of drug trafficking and promoting the rule of law through criminal justice reform but the operation was suspended following the coup d'état in April 2012.

64. Jointly with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs, the United Nations Office for West Africa and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the Office implements the West Africa Coast Initiative, which contributes to security sector reform and State institution-building in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The Initiative promotes information and intelligence-sharing at the national and regional levels, as well as between coastal countries of West Africa and Latin America, through the establishment of transnational crime units. The Initiative is a pilot United Nations inter-agency programme, successfully implementing "Delivering as one" by complementing the different agencies' mandates and jointly addressing regional challenges to peace and security.

65. The Office has established joint airport interdiction task forces at selected West African and Latin American airports, in the context of the global Airport Communication Project, jointly implemented with the World Customs Organization and INTERPOL. It aims at establishing specialized investigation teams at international airports in West Africa and Latin America and connect them to international law enforcement databases and secure communication networks to intercept illicit shipments in real time.

66. As part of joint United Nations system efforts, the Office is contributing to the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2018 (2011) and 2039 (2012) to address piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, including in the development of a comprehensive strategy to counter trafficking, organized crime and maritime piracy.

67. The Office has developed a Regional Programme for Southern Africa (2013-2016) and supports the Governments of Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Namibia and South Africa in their efforts to implement specific activities foreseen within the framework of the Luanda initiative for combating and preventing transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, and piracy.

68. In addition, the Office assists the Southern African Development Community and its member States in enhancing and strengthening the technical and legal capacity of the relevant national authorities. This includes provision of legal advice on the drafting, promulgation and implementation of comprehensive legislation to counter trafficking in persons, distribution of resource materials from the Office, such as the Model Law against Trafficking in Persons, as well as the development of a national policy framework and a national plan of action to prevent, suppress and prosecute acts of trafficking in persons.

69. In April 2011, the Office published a study on the transatlantic cocaine market, which illustrates the expansion of the cocaine market across the Atlantic and more recently in South America.

70. Under the framework of the Anti-Corruption Mentor Programme, advisers have been placed in a number of countries and regions. They have provided a broad range of policy and technical advice and day-to-day support for the implementation of the Convention against Corruption, such as conducting gap analysis, support and advice for the establishment of anti-corruption institutions and policies, providing training in investigating and prosecuting of corruption offences, offering legislative advisory services and advising on asset recovery strategies. Through this programme, two advisors were placed in Cape Verde and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (both finished their assignments, in 2009 and 2012 respectively). The Office intends to deploy an adviser for West and Central Africa to facilitate technical assistance activities in the countries of the zone.

71. In partnership with the Office of the Comptroller General in Brazil, the Office completed a project that provided support for the implementation of anti-corruption measures. The initiative triggered a national legislation reform process, resulting in several bills on corporate responsibility and on considering corruption as a serious crime. The Office also provided assistance to other stakeholders in strengthening the capacity of the judicial and accountability system at the national and municipal levels.

72. In Nigeria, in 2011, the Office completed its largest anti-corruption project to date, which provided support to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission and the Nigerian judiciary, in partnership with the European Union. Specific interventions with the Commission involved the strengthening of its operational capacities, including specialized training for staff and management, the delivery of basic operational equipment, the establishment of the Commission's Training and Research Institute, the creation of a forensic laboratory and the provision of a state-of-the-art information technology system and custom-made specialized database applications. The project also aimed at strengthening the Nigerian judiciary and

other justice sector stakeholders in the integrity and capacity of the justice system at the federal level and in 10 Nigerian states. In addition, the Office assists the Nigerian private sector in the development of principles for the ethical conduct of business and the private-public sector interface.

73. Based on the positive outcome of the cooperation between the Nigerian Government and the Office, the European Union agreed to fund the launch of a new, even larger, five-year programme aimed at supporting the anti-corruption agenda of the Nigerian Government.

74. In the implementation of the global project on firearms, the Office has worked closely and coordinated its activities with ECOWAS and the Common Market of the South/Mercado Común del Sur (MERCOSUR). The Office has also established close links with INTERPOL, supporting the awareness-raising for and roll-out of a global project of INTERPOL known as iArms.

Annex

Cooperation initiatives proposed by Argentina

A. Science and innovation sector projects

Such projects could include:

- Workshops on biotechnology and nanotechnology will serve as a platform to identify interested counterparts and start working in human resources training and development of research and innovation projects in the areas of food security, agriculture and infectious diseases (malaria, dengue, yellow fever and cholera) in response to social demands and development
- Training on climate change and environmental control
- "Programa Raíces" (roots programme), aimed at developing programme activities with Argentine nationals identified in countries of the zone
- Company internationalization projects on innovation and development among technology-based companies in member countries.

B. Health sector projects

Such projects could include:

- Comprehensive programme of control and monitoring for the prevention and control of vector-borne diseases (dengue, malaria, yellow fever, etc.); diagnosis of the situation and technical assistance for national production of insecticides
- Training in nuclear medicine; training of local human resources using nuclear and related techniques.

C. Agriculture sector projects

Such projects could include:

- "Pro Huerta" project aimed at promoting self-production of fresh produce in urban and semi-urban organic gardens, including the development of a pilot phase in areas to be identified, and access to safe waters
- Livestock development project, including training of officials, extension workers and farmers' associations in semen production, artificial insemination and milk production, including exchange of mechanisms of zoosanitary information
- Fisheries strengthening project, including training of technicians in resources assessment and selection of gear, as well as processing and conservation
- Technical assistance on animal and plant health project, including training of trainers in quality control of products of animal and vegetable origin, vaccine production and control of zoonosis
- Agricultural development, involving nuclear and related techniques, the project includes training in nuclear techniques to study soil improvement, fertilization,

greenhouse cultivation with irrigations of low-water consumption, agriculture in deserts and saline areas, animal breeding, pest control and other matters.

D. Defence sector projects

Such projects could include:

- Programme on humanitarian demining
- Training at the Training Centre for Humanitarian Demining of the Argentine Army, which offers courses and specific training upon request, in Spanish (in 2013, the following subjects are on offer: mine action; stockpile destruction; mine risk education; victim assistance; operation management system and information planning; and quality management)
- Feasibility studies for the development of a robotized system for demining
- Institutional strengthening project in the field of defence entailing technical assistance in defence policy, civil conduct, human rights and gender policies in the armed forces, through the inclusion of military and civilian students in educational institutions of the Ministry of Defence and sending trainers to deliver courses and seminars
- Military health cooperation projects aimed at strengthening the area of military health through the exchange of specialized health professionals in the military field with a system of internships in Argentine military hospitals and Argentine doctors who can provide training in member countries
- Capacity-strengthening project on sea surveillance and control, on the basis of technical assistance in the framework of the integrated coastal monitoring and control system
- Capacity-strengthening project on airspace surveillance and control, including staff training and providing area surveillance solutions through the provision of three-dimensional radars manufactured by INVAP and military industries
- Assistance to strengthen the security sector
- Programme on scientific, technological and industrial cooperation: a multisectoral team comprising the research centre for defence technology (CITEDEF), defence industries such as the Argentine Naval Industrial Complex (CINAR) and an aviation factory of Argentina (FADEA), military industries and INVAP could develop a programme of exchanges and cooperation in joint scientific research.

E. Planning sector projects

Such projects could include:

- Study of prior identification to collaborate in the establishment of a digital television system, for dissemination and training purposes relating to social, cultural, educational and health-care information, with collaboration from INVAP

- Certification system for quality strengthening: the projects could include training in certification of construction products (steel, cement, electrical products and fire elements) and of staff (welding and non-destructive tests)
- Project for improvement of the regulatory system of civil works
- Advice on nuclear techniques for environmental and ocean surveillance, including advice on mainland and ocean environmental radiological and convention surveillance and advice on installation and setting in motion of laboratories of nuclear and conventional analytical techniques.

F. Industry sector projects

Such projects could include:

- Training of auditors in industrial, scientific and legal metrology and training for gas pump and scale calibration staff
- Training in nuclear engineering assistance in irradiation technologies and evaluation, and selection of materials for the oil industry, as well as training in human resources and, in some circumstances, assessment and evaluation of materials used in the oil industry and in corrosive or high demand atmospheres
- Advice on the treatment of radioactive, low and intermediate level waste from industry, medicine and particularly the oil industry (naturally occurring radioactive materials)
- Advice on improvement of the nuclear regulatory system, including advice and training in human resources in the field of physical and radiological safety and regulation.

G. Continental shelf

Such projects could include:

- The National Commission has the capacity and willingness to provide cooperation on matters within its competence to member States of the zone, who are invited to send their requests for South-South cooperation projects in this matter, which will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the relevant competent authorities.

H. Security sector projects

Such projects could include:

- Marine scientific research, through the research platform provided by the oceanographic vessel *Bernardo Houssay*
- Technical cooperation for capacity-building, including education and training in specific human resources for tasks of coast guard organizations or those whose main competence is the exercise of police tasks in jurisdictional maritime areas

- Training, updating and continued education on matters related to the safety of navigation, maritime and port security, prevention of water pollution and public safety, in accordance with basic principles of respect for human rights, constitutional guarantees and in compliance with the code of conduct for law enforcement officials.

I. Gender issues

Such projects could include:

- Cooperation on implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on "Women, peace and security" in all fields related to gender under the Montevideo Ministerial Declaration.